

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Douglas Westphal at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Meeting Room of the St. Clair City Hall, 304 Main Street West, St. Clair, Minnesota. Council Members present: Mayor Westphal, Jerry Phillips, Thomas Karels, Sr., Chris Cousins and Jason Weinandt. Council Members absent: None. City Staff present: Mark Krenik, Public Works Supervisor; Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer; and Bill Fitzloff, Fire Chief. Others present: Connie Johns (St. Clair School Board liaison), Dan Murphy (City Building Inspection Services), and Nancy Schleuter.

After calling the meeting to order Mayor Westphal welcomed all visitors and guests and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

CANVASSING BOARD

Mayor Westphal called the Canvassing Board to order (the City Council serves as the legally constituted Canvassing Board for the City). The City Clerk-Treasurer administered the Oath to the Canvassing Board. The Canvassing Board convened. The City Clerk-Treasurer presented the Abstract of Votes Cast for the City of St. Clair, County of Blue Earth, State of Minnesota at the State General Election held on Tuesday, November 6, 2011 as Compiled from the Official Returns. The Abstract of Vote Cast included the Detail of City Election Results, the Summary of Totals and the Write-In Tally Sheet for the City Election. For the 2- year term of Mayor: Doug Westphal received 240 votes; Chris Cousins received 170 votes. There were 3 misc. write-in votes for the position of Mayor. For the two (2) 4-year City Council positions: Jerry Phillips received 309; Tom Karels, Sr. received 304 votes. There were 24 misc. write-in votes for the City Council positions. Motion by Weinandt, seconded by Phillips to approve the Abstract of Votes Cast for the City of St. Clair, County of Blue Earth, State of Minnesota at the State General Election held on Tuesday, November 6, 2011 as Compiled from the Official Returns. Motion carried with all in favor. Motion by Cousins, seconded by Weinandt to adjourn the Canvassing Board. Motion carried with all in favor.

RESOLUTION CERTIFYING ELECTION RETURNS AND DECLARING RESULTS

Motion by Cousins, seconded by Weinandt to approve the Resolution Certifying Election Returns and Declaring Results. Motion carried with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS

The minutes of the September 6, 2012 Special City Council Meeting, the October 2, 2012 Conditional Use Permit Public Hearing, and the October 2, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting were approved with a motion by Karels, seconded by Phillips, and carried with all in favor.

The invoices, bills and vendor's claims for the month of October were approved with a motion by Cousins, seconded by Weinandt and carried with all in favor.

CITY BUILDING OFFICIAL

City Building Official, Dan Murphy (City Building Inspection Services) was present. The City of St. Clair adopted the State Building Code in July of 2008. Mr. Murphy noted that both homeowners and contractors are becoming more familiar with the building permit procedure and the building inspection process. The Council discussed their concerns regarding building projects that are not completed within

the 180 day timeframe. Also discussed were property maintenance issues and the possible need to consider developing a property maintenance ordinance. The process for handling issues relating to deteriorating buildings and unsafe and hazardous structures were discussed. Mr. Murphy will meet with the City Clerk regarding concerns relating to some specific properties within the City.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. Jason Peterson and Tanner Mace have been interviewed and selected to fill the two (2) vacancies which exist on the Fire Dept. Motion by Phillips, seconded by Karels to approve hiring Jason Peterson and Tanner Mace to fill the two (2) Fire Dept. vacancies. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. The Truck Committee will be meeting to discuss options for replacement of the 1977 International.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Dept. Supervisor Mark Krenik reported on the following:

1. The 2012 Sidewalk Project was discussed. The sodding portion of the project will be finished by the end of this week (November 16th). It was also noted that sod is guaranteed if it doesn't take.
2. Fall watermain/hydrant flushing was completed and 15 hydrants were repaired.
3. The National Honor Society (NHS) "Rake the Town" was done on Sunday, October 28th. The Public Works Dept. picked up and disposed of the leaves on Monday, October 29th using a leaf vac (borrowed from the City of Eagle Lake). The will check on leaf pick-up options for 2013.
4. Sidewalk snow removal was briefly discussed. Randy Spear, Tom Nicolai and Brian Lynch will be contacted to see if they are interested.
5. Estimates for shingling and roof repair of the pavilion and picnic shelter were discussed. The project will be further discussed next spring.
6. Radio read water meters were discussed, as well as water pumped vs. water billed. The Council will give the matter further consideration.
7. Repair of a pump at the Wastewater Treatment Plant Lift Station was discussed. It was noted that the pump has the wrong impeller, which causes the seal on the pump to go out. It was also noted that the upper bearing on the pump was destroyed. Motion by Phillips, seconded by Weinandt to purchase a new pump with the right impeller. Motion carried with all in favor.
8. Repair of playground equipment at Memorial Park was discussed. It was noted that some of the equipment is nearly 20 years old. It was suggested that a Playground Equipment Committee be formed, including Council Members Cousins, Council Member Weinandt, and Nancy Schleuter (Ms. Schleuter was an original member of the Park Board, and instrumental in the development of Memorial Park). The Playground Committee will research playground equipment and replacement needs and make recommendations to the City Council. It was noted that contacting members of the School Playground Committee might be helpful.
9. A ice skating rink was discussed. Mr. Krenik noted that the City really isn't set up for an ice skating rink. He further noted that the process is very time consuming and to do it right the rink will need continual maintenance ... it needs to be flooded several times a week (kids need to be kept off after flooding), the snow needs to be removed and it needs to be swept/broomed frequently, plus the weather must be conducive for making ice. It was decided that the City would give the skating rink one more try this year and see how it goes.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. The South Central Safety Committee (SCSC) will meet in Good Thunder on November 29th. The topic of the training will be cold weather/winter emergencies, winter driving, and the end of the year review.
2. Nancy Schleuter and Catherine Seys met with Lisa Malinski (Blue Earth County Finance Dept.) regarding the decertification of the Tax Increment Financing District and the implication of the decertification on the 2013 Tax Levy. It was noted that the preliminary 2013 levy can be adjusted at the December City Council meeting prior to approval of the final 2013 levy.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

1. The sidewalk project, which includes replacing sidewalks on Main Street West, Agency Street, Park Street North and the 200, 300 and 400 block of Main Street East, is nearly complete.
2. Other items of discussion include radio read water meters, ice rink and leaf vac options.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. The EDA will be hosting Donuts with Santa and Mrs. Claus and a Winter Photography Contest.
2. Council Member Weinandt attended the October School Board meeting. Mayor Westphal will attend the November 19th School Board meeting.
3. The Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks met in Pemberton on Thursday, November 8th the speakers for the evening were Blue Earth County Emergency Management Team members Mike Maurer, Brenda Olmscheid and Eric Weller.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Cousins, seconded by Weinandt and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer